

Reader's Guide

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will manage the Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in accordance with an approved Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP). The CCP provides long range guidance on Refuge expansion and management through its vision, goals, objectives, and strategies. The CCP also provides a basis for a long-term adaptive management process including implementation, monitoring progress, evaluating and adjusting, and revising plans accordingly. Additional step-down planning will be required prior to implementation of certain programs and projects.

This document combines both a Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Comprehensive Conservation Plan (Draft EIS/CCP). Following public review and comment, we will publish a Final EIS followed by a Record of Decision (ROD) that identifies the alternative selected as the CCP. We will then publish a stand-alone CCP made up of Chapter 1, the selected alternative from Chapter 2, all of Chapters 3, 5, 6, and 8, and selected appendices. The following chapter and appendix descriptions are provided to assist readers in locating and understanding the various components of this combined document.

Chapter 1, *Introduction, Purpose and Need, and Issues*, includes the regional context, establishment, and purposes of Trempealeau NWR; vision and goals for future management; and the purpose of and need for a comprehensive conservation plan. This chapter also provides background on major planning issues identified by Refuge staff; federal, state, and local agencies; and the general public.

Chapter 2, *Alternatives*, describes three management alternatives. Each alternative represents a potential comprehensive conservation plan for Trempealeau NWR. Alternative A describes current management on the Refuge. Alternative C, the Preferred Alternative, is the proposed Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Trempealeau NWR. Alternative A represents baseline conditions for the comparisons made in Chapter 4.

Chapter 3, *Affected Environment*, describes the existing physical and biological environment, public uses, cultural resources, and socioeconomic conditions.

Chapter 4, *Environmental Consequences*, describes the potential impacts of each of the three alternatives on the resources, programs, and conditions outlined in Chapter 3. This is perhaps the most important part of the Environmental Impact Statement component of this document.

Chapter 5, *List of Preparers*, contains the names, positions, education, and years of experience of persons involved in the preparation of this Draft EIS/CCP.

Chapter 6, *Compliance, Consultation, and Coordination with Others*, provides details on public involvement and interagency coordination, along with a list of agencies, groups, and citizens contacted during the planning process.

Chapter 7, *Public Comments*, Copies of written comments on this draft and our response will be included in the Final EIS. This chapter is blank now.

Chapter 8, *List of References*, This chapter provides bibliographic citations and references used in this document.

Appendix A, *Glossary of Terms*, contains definitions of terms used in this document.

Appendix B, *Acronyms and Abbreviations*, contains the meanings of these short-hand notations used in this document.

Appendix C, *Distribution List*, contains the list of federal, Tribal, state, and local agencies; nongovernment organizations; academic institutions; and individuals who received planning updates, summaries, and other mailings associated with this planning effort.

Appendix D, *Applicable Laws and Executive Orders*, contains brief descriptions of some of the more pertinent laws and executive orders applicable to management of Trempealeau NWR.

Appendix E, *Executive Order 7437*, this is the executive order which established the Trempealeau NWR.

Appendix F, *Economic Analysis of Refuge Alternatives and Demographics*, contains tables generated in preparation of this document.

Appendix G, *Species Lists*, lists plants and animals that have been observed on Trempealeau NWR.

Appendix H, *Plan Implementation*, summarizes the actions to be taken for the Preferred Alternative.

Appendix I, *Compatibility Determinations (CDs)*, describe uses, anticipated impacts, stipulations, and a determination of compatibility for all existing and proposed public uses on Trempealeau NWR.